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LUNACY AND MENTAL TREATMENT  
ACTS

Annual Report of the  
Board of Control  
to the  
Lord Chancellor

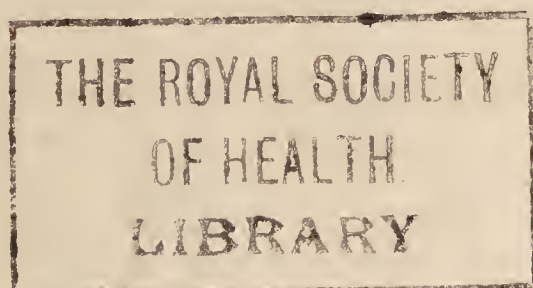
For the Year 1957

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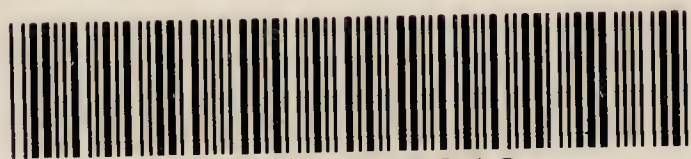
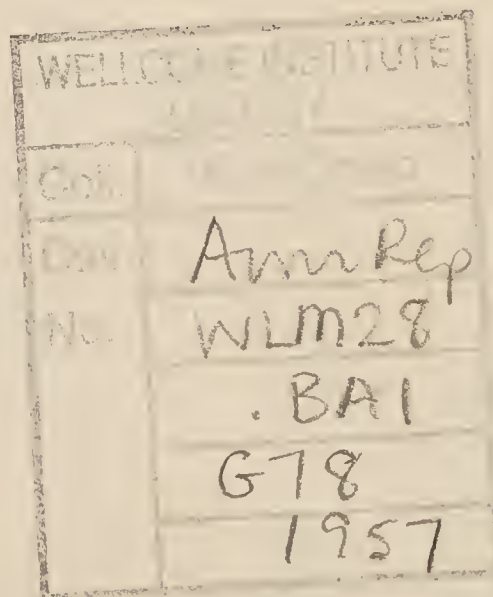
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# THE FORTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF CONTROL FOR THE YEAR 1957

To the Right Honourable The LORD HIGH CHANCELLOR

My Lord,

In pursuance of Section 162 of the Lunacy Act, 1890, we beg to submit the following Report:—

## *Introduction*

This Report refers briefly to the condition of mental hospitals and other institutional accommodation for the mentally ill (but not the mentally defective) in England and Wales, and to the care of such patients. Since the coming into force of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Minister of Health has become responsible for providing and maintaining mental hospitals and hospitals for the mentally defective. The Annual Report of the Minister to Parliament now includes sections on mental health with statistics relating both to mental illness and to mental deficiency.

## *Accommodation*

At the 31st December, 1957, there were 145,649 patients under care under the provisions of the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, 1890 to 1930. In addition there were 199 patients in Naval and Military Hospitals, 200 Broadmoor patients in mental hospitals and 914 in Broadmoor Institution. The total number of patients notified as under treatment for mental illness was therefore 146,962, 2,518 fewer than at 31st December, 1956.

At the end of 1957 the designated mental hospitals, exclusive of the former public assistance institutions, had accommodation for 123,947 beds, calculated upon the space-standards prescribed by the Ministry of Health. This figure excludes space for 480 beds which, though diverted from use as bed-space to other mental hospital uses had hitherto been regarded as potential bed-space and included as such in the accommodation figures. The total of 124,427 (i.e., 123,947 + 480) is comparable with the figure of 124,218 at the end of 1956, indicating an increase during 1957 of space for 209 beds. Of the accommodation provided by these hospitals at the end of 1957, 2,535 beds were not available for use: 723 beds were being used for other services, 1,111 were in wards awaiting renovation or repairs and 701 were empty because of shortage of staff. 199 more beds were in use than at the end of 1956. The hospitals were overcrowded to the extent of 14,402 beds, or 2,600 less than at the end of 1956.

## *Admissions*

The admissions to designated mental hospitals in 1957 were 88,943 as compared with 83,994 in 1956 and 55,856 in 1950. Admissions to all institutions and to private single care were 93,306 in 1957, 4,764 more than in the previous year.

The increase in the number of voluntary admissions and the fall in admissions under certificate, noted in previous reports, were again apparent. In 1956, 78·2 per cent. (65,637) of the admissions to designated mental hospitals were voluntary and 20·1 per cent. (16,904) were under certificate. During 1957, voluntary admissions increased to 82·6 per cent. (73,499) and certified cases fell to 15·9 per cent. (14,126). To all types of care the number of voluntary admissions increased by 7,810 to a total of 77,289 and the admissions of certified cases fell by 2,903 to 14,656.

Of the total admissions in 1957, 41,908 were re-admissions. This represented 44·9 per cent. of the total, compared with 43·1 per cent. in 1956.



## *Movement and Distribution of Patients*

Details are given in the Appendix of the movement of patients during the year and their distribution at the end of the year.

### *Nurses*

The information available about nurses relates only to those hospitals classified as mental hospitals on the criteria set out in the note to the table below. These hospitals contribute approximately 95 per cent. of all beds for mentally ill patients in National Health Service hospitals. The number of student nurses in these hospitals continues to increase but there is still a serious overall shortage of nursing staff.

### *Nursing Staff in Mental Illness Hospitals*

Grade	1956 30th September		1957 30th September	
	Whole-time	Part-time	Whole-time	Part-time
Total: All grades ... ..	20,358	6,937	20,903	7,176
Male ... ..	10,709	197	10,913	225
Female ... ..	9,649	6,740	9,990	6,951
Trained Nurses:				
Total ... ..	11,040	1,650	10,938	1,643
Male ... ..	7,319	138	7,200	158
Female ... ..	3,721	1,512	3,738	1,485
Student Nurses:				
Total ... ..	4,026	—	4,566	—
Male ... ..	1,674	—	2,001	—
Female ... ..	2,352	—	2,565	—
Others:				
Total ... ..	5,292	5,287	5,399	5,533
Male ... ..	1,716	59	1,712	67
Female ... ..	3,576	5,228	3,687	5,466

*Note.*—These figures relate to hospitals:—

- (a) having at least 90 per cent. of their beds allocated for mental patients; and
- (b) having at least 90 per cent. of their beds allocated for mental and mental deficiency patients, the majority being for mental patients.

### *Registered Hospitals, Licensed Houses and Nursing Homes*

The four hospitals<sup>(1)</sup> registered for the reception of persons suffering from mental illness provided at the end of the year a total of just over 1,200 beds. They were visited and found to be in their usual good condition.

Following the closure of Laverstock House in January, 1957, 22 licensed houses<sup>(2)</sup> remained in operation at the end of the year. Of these, nine were licensed by the Minister of Health and thirteen by provincial justices. They were licensed for the accommodation of a maximum of 1,032 patients. Visits to them were made as required by statute and in general conditions in them were satisfactory: but one continued to require the attention of the Board.

<sup>(1)</sup> Cheadle Royal, near Manchester; St. Andrews, Northampton; The Retreat, York; and Barnwood House, Gloucester. These hospitals are not vested in the Minister of Health, but are managed on a voluntary basis.

<sup>(2)</sup> These are privately owned houses or homes in which patients are received for payment.

There were twelve nursing homes approved by the Minister of Health for the reception of voluntary or temporary patients under the Mental Treatment Act, 1930.

*Single Patients*

At 31st December, 1957, there were 47 patients in private single care<sup>(1)</sup> a reduction of one during the year. Forty-four were visited and conditions found to be satisfactory. Visits are pending in the remaining cases.

*Broadmoor Institution*

In April, 1957, Dr. S. G. James, the Medical Superintendent, died. He was succeeded in the following July by Dr. P. G. McGrath.

The institution was regularly visited during the year.

*Royal Naval Hospital, Great Yarmouth, and P. Wing,  
Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley*

The usual visit was paid to each of these Service Hospitals, and satisfactory reports were received.

By Order of the Board,

I. F. ARMER,  
*Chairman.*

P. BENNER,  
*Secretary.*

Ministry of Health Building,  
Savile Row,  
London, W.1.

*June, 1958.*

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<sup>(1)</sup> A patient in single care resides with and under the legal control of a private individual.



## APPENDIX

### DISTRIBUTION OF PATIENTS

The distribution of all patients at the end of the year 1957 may be seen by reference to Tables I and II, and changes by class and status of patients in Table III. 98·3 per cent. of them have been resident in hospitals vested in the Minister of Health.

### MOVEMENT OF PATIENTS

Admissions, Discharges, Transfers to other Care and Deaths in 1957. The following statement includes patients of each status (Voluntary, Temporary and Certified):—

						Total
Resident at 1st January, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	149,480
Direct admissions	Total	...	...	...	...	93,306
	not previously admitted	...	...	...	...	51,398
	other	...	...	...	...	41,908
Indirect admissions (excluding regradings) <sup>(1)</sup>	...	...	...	...	...	714
						243,500
Discharged and Departed	Total	...	...	...	...	82,778
	Recovered <sup>(2)</sup>	...	...	...	...	19,643
	Relieved	...	...	...	...	54,054
	Not Improved	...	...	...	...	8,822
	By operation of law <sup>(3)</sup>	...	...	...	...	259
Transferred (Under Order) to other care <sup>(1)</sup>	...	...	...	...	...	773
Died	...	...	...	...	...	12,987
Remained at 31st December, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	146,962
						243,500

<sup>(1)</sup> The figure of " Indirect admissions (excluding regradings) " is less than " Transferred (Under Order) to other care " because a few transfers into designated mental hospitals from other types of care are recorded by those hospitals as direct admissions.

<sup>(2)</sup> Including any patients discharged shortly after admission as " Not now insane ".

<sup>(3)</sup> By reason of irregular admission documents, the lapsing of reception orders (Section 38, Lunacy Act, 1890, and Section 7, Lunacy Act, 1891) or discharge after absconding (Section 85, Lunacy Act, 1890).

TABLE I

PATIENTS UNDER CARE AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1957 AND 31ST DECEMBER, 1956  
ANALYSIS BY TYPE OF CARE AND CLASS OF PATIENT

			31st December, 1957				31st Dec., 1956
			Private	Health Service	Broad-moor-Patients	Total	Total
Total ...	Total(*)		3,705	142,143	1,114	146,962	149,480
	Males		1,242	60,363	902	62,507	63,704
	Females		2,463	81,780	212	84,455	85,776
In hospitals vested in the Minister of Health:—							
(i) Mental Hospitals ...	Total(†)		1,418	141,602	200	143,220	145,593
	Males		485	60,151	179	60,815	61,956
	Females		933	81,451	21	82,405	83,637
(ii) Teaching Hospitals ...	Total		—	376	—	376	392
	Males		—	154	—	154	171
	Females		—	222	—	222	221
(iii) Broadmoor Institution ...	Total		—	—	914	914	917
	Males		—	—	723	723	726
	Females		—	—	191	191	191
In premises not vested in the Minister of Health but deemed to be Mental Hospitals	Total		—	34	—	34	36
	Males		—	16	—	16	16
	Females		—	18	—	18	20
In Registered Hospitals ...	Total		1,117	104	—	1,221	1,286
	Males		395	42	—	437	456
	Females		722	62	—	784	830
In Licensed Houses:—	Total		210	—	—	210	217
Metropolitan ...	Males		53	—	—	53	45
	Females		157	—	—	157	172
Provincial ...	Total		575	27	—	602	633
	Males		98	—	—	98	109
	Females		477	27	—	504	524
In Nursing Homes approved under the Mental Treatment Act ...	Total		139	—	—	139	145
	Males		3	—	—	3	2
	Females		136	—	—	136	143
In Naval and Military Hospitals...	Total		199	—	—	199	213
	Males		199	—	—	199	213
	Females		—	—	—	—	—
In private Single Care ...	Total		47	—	—	47	48
	Males		9	—	—	9	10
	Females		38	—	—	38	38

(\*) The daily average numbers resident during the calendar year 1957 were 63,111 males and 84,249 females.

(†) The numbers in former Public Assistance Institutions included in the totals were 7,282 at 31st December, 1957 and 7,379 at 31st December, 1956.



TABLE II  
ANALYSIS BY TYPE OF CARE AND STATUS OF PATIENT

				31st December, 1957				31st Dec., 1956
				Volun- tary	Tem- porary	Certi- fied	Total	Total
TOTAL <sup>(1)</sup>	...	...	Total	54,553	333	92,076	146,962	149,480
			Males	23,208	108	39,191	62,507	63,704
			Females	31,345	225	52,885	84,455	85,776
In hospitals vested in the Minister of Health:—								
(i) Mental Hospitals	...		Total	52,997	320	89,903	143,220	145,593
			Males	22,761	105	37,949	60,815	61,956
			Females	30,236	215	51,954	82,405	83,637
(ii) Teaching Hospitals	...		Total	376	—	—	376	392
			Males	154	—	—	154	171
			Females	222	—	—	222	221
(iii) Broadmoor Institution	...		Total	—	—	914	914	917
			Males	—	—	723	723	726
			Females	—	—	191	191	191
In premises not vested in the Minister of Health but deemed to be Mental Hospitals								
			Total	—	—	34	34	36
			Males	—	—	16	16	16
			Females	—	—	18	18	20
In Registered Hospitals	...	...	Total	611	12	598	1,221	1,286
			Males	207	2	228	437	456
			Females	404	10	370	784	830
In Licensed Houses:—								
Metropolitan	...	...	Total	137	1	72	210	217
			Males	32	1	20	53	45
			Females	105	—	52	157	172
Provincial	...	...	Total	287	—	315	602	633
			Males	47	—	51	98	109
			Females	240	—	264	504	524
In Nursing Homes approved under the Mental Treatment Act								
			Total	139	—	—	139	145
			Males	3	—	—	3	2
			Females	136	—	—	136	143
In Naval and Military Hospitals...								
			Total	1	—	198	199	213
			Males	1	—	198	199	213
			Females	—	—	—	—	—
In Private Single-Care								
	...	...	Total	5	—	42	47	48
			Males	3	—	6	9	10
			Females	2	—	36	38	38
Of total:—								
Private Patients	...	...	Total	1,936	16	1,753	3,705	4,086
			Males	587	4	651	1,242	1,341
			Females	1,349	12	1,102	2,463	2,745
Health Service Patients...								
	...		Total	52,617	317	89,209	142,143	144,288
			Males	22,621	104	37,638	60,363	61,476
			Females	29,996	213	51,571	81,780	82,812
Broadmoor Patients								
	...	...	Total	—	—	1,114	1,114	1,106
			Males	—	—	902	902	887
			Females	—	—	212	212	219



TABLE III  
ANALYSIS OF CHANGES BY CLASS AND STATUS OF PATIENT

				Increase (or decrease —) during 1957			Average annual increase (or decrease —) in five years 1953–57 inclusive		
				Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
TOTAL ... ..				— 2,518	—1,197	—1,321	— 478	— 192	— 286
Class:	Private ... ..	...	...	— 381	— 99	— 282	— 278	— 94	— 184
	Health service ... ..	...	.....	— 2,145	—1,113	—1,032	— 219	— 117	— 102
	Broadmoor patients ...			8	15	— 7	19	19	—
Status:	Voluntary ... ..	...	...	9,484	4,066	5,418	4,630	1,901	2,729
	Temporary ... ..	...	...	— 64	— 22	— 42	—	1	— 1
	Certified ... ..	...	...	—11,938	—5,241	—6,697	—5,108	—2,094	—3,014

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